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TO: Heads of Fire Departments

FROM: Stephen D. Coan
State Fire Marshal

DATE: June 1, 2007

SUBJECT: **Contact Number for July Fourth Holiday**

The summer fireworks season is fast approaching. Final plans for the Fourth of July fireworks displays are taking place and precautionary planning becomes increasingly important. Advance planning is necessary to respond appropriately should problems be encountered the day or evening of the display. While the primary concern is the prevention of accidents that have the potential to injure, other issues of non-compliance may still occur on the day of the display. The Office of the State Fire Marshal grants natural barrier approvals when needed. If you previously received approval and nothing has changed in the plans submitted to you by the fireworks shooter, you do not need another approval. If you need a site inspection for approval, please contact 978-567-3375 as soon as possible.

Once again, it is strongly recommended that the same procedures used last year be followed again this year. A representative of your department should take a close look at the display during the setup process during daylight hours in the late afternoon. This procedure provides the best opportunity to inspect and correct any compliance issues and insures a safe and successful fireworks display. This year representatives from both the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and Department of Transportation (DOT) will be inspecting various sites within the Commonwealth. Both agencies have agreed to work directly with the Office of the State Fire Marshal in setting up site visits.

Please be assured that once again the Department of Fire Services, Office of the State Fire Marshal, stands ready to provide the highest possible level of technical, compliance, and enforcement support during this long and important holiday week. In an effort to provide additional inspection guidelines, please find attached to this memo a suggested checklist for the three stages of a fireworks program. If you have any questions about Users Certificates, Certificates of Competency, or related licensing issues, please contact our Licensing Desk at 978-567-3700.

Recognizing the potential need for compliance and enforcement support during the long July Fourth holiday, the Office of the State Fire Marshal will provide a Code Compliance and Enforcement Officer, 24 hours a day, to provide a response to your communities should the need arise.

Should it be necessary during the course of a pre-display setup inspection by your department, an “in progress” display, or an accident, to contact a Code Compliance and Enforcement Officer, the following numbers may be called for immediate assistance (be prepared to provide your contact information and details on the nature of the request):

**Outside of regular business hours, you should call the Massachusetts
Emergency Management Agency at 508-820-2000.**

**Normal business days from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., please call the Office of the
State Fire Marshal at 978-567-3375.**